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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (24 Oct 69) FOR OT UT 692250

10 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 40th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 30 April 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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AD 861633

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 40TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION)
AOP San Francisco 96491

300PV-UG-FS-0

17 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION:

1. OPERATIONS: Significant Activities

a. At the close of the period the Battalion was organized and located as follows:

- (1) Battalion Headquarters located at Long Binh, RVN.
- (2) Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment located at Long Binh, RVN.
- (3) Company A:
 - (a) Headquarters at Long Binh, RVN.
 - (b) 1st Platoon at Long Binh, RVN.
 - (c) 2nd Platoon (-) at Long Binh, RVN.
 - (d) One section of 2nd Platoon at Camp Vayama Thailand.
 - (e) 3rd Platoon at Saigon, RVN.
 - (f) Cable Splicer Section (-) at Long Binh with Cable Splicing teams located at Saigon, Pleiku, Quang Tri and Camp Vayama, Thailand.
- (4) Company B:
 - (a) Headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay, RVN.
 - (b) 1st Platoon (-) at Cam Ranh Bay.
 - (c) One section of 1st Platoon at Phu Lam.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1)

- (d) One team of the 1st Platoon at Camp Vayam, Thailand.
- (e) 2nd Platoon (-) at Phu Bai.
- (f) One Section of the 2nd Platoon at Duc Pho.
- (g) 3rd Platoon (-) Kontum.
- (h) One section of the 3rd Platoon at Dalat.
- (i) Cable Splicer Section (-) at Cam Ranh Bay with Cable Splicers at Phu Lai, Phu Bai, Duc Pho, Kontum and Dalat.

(5) Company D:

- (a) Headquarters at Phu Tai, RVN.
- (b) 1st Platoon (-) at Phu Tai, RVN.
- (c) One section of the 1st Platoon at Pleiku.
- (d) 2nd Platoon (-) at Phu Tai, RVN.
- (e) One section of the 2nd Platoon at Quang Tri.
- (f) 3rd Platoon at Quang Tri, RVN.
- (g) Cable Splicer Section (-) at Phu Tai with Cable Splicers located at Quang Tri and Camp Vayam, Thailand.

b. The composite platoon of the Battalion located at Camp Vayam, Sattahip, Thailand, is OPCON to the 379th Signal Battalion, 29th Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade.

c. The 2nd Platoon, Company B, located at Phu Bai and Duc Pho, is OPCON to the 63rd Signal Battalion, ICTZ Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade.

d. No major moves (ie- any larger than a platoon force) were made by the Battalion during the period.

e. Since arrival in Vietnam in August 1966, The Battalion has installed a total of 3,230,384 feet of multi-pair communications cable through RVN and Thailand. During the period covered by this report the Battalion installed 292,400 feet of multi-pair communications cable.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1)

f. Significant accomplishments during the period were the completion of the following major cable projects:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NR FEET CABLE</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Saigon	64,000	MD 160-68
Cu Chi	39,000	CTO 25-68
Tuy Hoa	88,000	CTO 5-68
Chu Lai	257,000	CTO 34-67

g. Major projects nearing completion at the close of the period are as follows:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NR FEET CABLE</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Quang Tri	175,000	CTO 22-68
Phu Lam	3,741	CTO 4-69
Saigon	23,000	MD178-68
Saigon	21,000	MD182-68
Saigon	9,800	CTO 10-69
Long Binh	23,000	MD 18-69
Long Binh	4,000	MD 54-69
Long Binh	4,000	MD 65-69
Long Binh	2,500	MD 79-69
Phu Tai	100,000	CTO 3-69
Duc Pho	23,000	SC0127-68
Dalat	43,000	CTO 6-69
Kontum	31,000	CTO 7-69
Pleiku	15,200	CTO 21-68
Thailand	290,000	29th Sig Gp

h. During the period 56 new Cable projects were received and 44 cable projects were completed.

i. The Battalion devoted available mandays during the period as follows:

Primary Mission	60%
Mission Support and Administration	20%
Maintenance of Equipment	10%
Security	4%
Training	3%
Area improvements and work details	2%
Other	1%
Total	100%

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SCOPV- UG-FS-0

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 Apr 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1)

2. Lessons Learned: Commander's observations, evaluations and recommendations.

a. PERSONNEL:

Critical MOS Shortages

(1) OBSERVATION: The most critical shortage that existed (and still exists) during the period was in the MOS 76A, 76P and 76Y series - supply specialists.

(2) EVALUATION: The obtaining of supplies in Vietnam is in itself a trying task. Greater efficiencies can be realized if men at the lowest level are proficient in supply procedures and more especially the organization and actual operating functions of the 1st Logistical Command. On-the-job training is NOT feasible because, as a general rule, the "teachers" themselves do not know supply procedures or the operation of the 1st Logistical Command.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That higher headquarters establish a local training course in general supply procedures and Class IV supply procedures, train enlisted men in the correct procedures and operation of the 1st Logistical Command before being assigned for Duty.

b. OPERATIONS:

OPCON of the Battalion

(1) OBSERVATION: The equivalent of two(2) full Platoons of the Battalion are under OPCON of other units.

(2) EVALUATION: The most effective utilization and employment of the 40th Signal Battalion resources is under the command and OPCON of the Battalion Commander. The Battalion is the only heavy cable construction unit in Vietnam. At the close of the period construction was being accomplished at the following sites in Vietnam and Thailand:

Quang Tri,	RVN
Duc Pho,	RVN
Kontum,	RVN
Pleiku,	RVN
Phu Tai,	RVN
Dalat,	RVN
Phu Lam,	RVN
Saigon,	RVN
Long Binh,	RVN
Sattahip.	Thailand

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 Apr 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1)

With the exception of Duc Pho and Thailand, personnel at all sites were under the command and OPCON of the Battalion Commander. Detachment of the two platoons (one in Phu Bai- now split between Phu Bai and Duc Pho; one in Thailand) decreases the capability of the Battalion to perform its primary mission. The battalion is expected to keep the two detached platoons at full strength yet seldom is the remainder of the Battalion at full strength. The 40th Signal Battalion has a construction mission as opposed to a unit having a operating and maintenance mission. The normal procedures (and workably correct) is for the Battalion to be tasked with a construction job, regardless of location. When tasking orders are received (communications Tasking Orders or Mission Orders) the project is surveyed for work to be performed, adequacy of the Bill of Materials listed, for the troops and equipment, etc. The task is assigned to a Platoon; men, materials and equipment are moved on-site and work is begun. The job is inspected by the Platoon leaders' company commander, the Battalion S-3 and the Battalion commander. Daily reports of progress are received at Battalion headquarters. Command interest in the projects ensures the economical utilization of personnel and equipment, selection of the most highly qualified personnel available to accomplish the task, establishment of realistic completion dates; maximizes support in terms of personnel, equipment and material, and, most important, fixes responsibility in the chain of command. During the reporting period the Platoon at Phu Bai was not utilized in performance of the primary mission of the Battalion. The Platoon NCOIC at Phu Bai (who is in charge of the men at Phu Bai during the absence of the Platoon leader and 27 men working at Duc Pho) reported that his men did not work on a single cable construction project during the month of April 1969. In Thailand, work on the Project is frustrated by the constant turn-over of personnel (59 days maximum out of Vietnam), oversupervision of the Platoon, frequent Mission Order changes, lack of supplies when critically needed, and theft of the cable plant. It is realized that the resolution of all of these problems cannot be resolved simply by the change of OPCON, but experience has shown that the Battalion, dedicated 100% to cable construction, can perform and accomplish missions as assigned regardless of location.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That heavy cable construction projects throughout Vietnam and Thailand be assigned to the 40th Signal Battalion and that the units on-site remain under the command and OPCON of the Battalion Commander.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
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c. Splicing Multi-pair Polyethylene Insulated (PIC) Communication Cable

(1) OBSERVATION: The present method of splicing multi-pair PIC cable does NOT insure a water-air tight splice.

(2) EVALUTION: Procedures for splicing PIC cable are not standard but instead depend on the value judgement of the design engineer and materials available. The Battalion uses the pigtail method of splicing pairs, clear or Jelly-filled sleeves, RB connectors and/or Scotchlocks. Aluminum or cast iron splice cases, or rubber-plastic cases are installed. Experience has shown that the splices become wet during the monsoon season causing serious communications outages. Also, the inexperienced splicers do not properly install the Scotchlocks or RB connectors thereby causing bad pairs in the cable. For the past several weeks the Battalion has been testing the products of the 3M company searching for a standard splicing procedure that can be established in Vietnam that will ensure a positive, water-air tight splice. The following method appears to have the most advantages:

Step 1. - Pigtail and solder each pair, Cover with a clear plastic sleeve.

Step 2. - Test the entire cable length each pair, when complete.

Step 3. - Cast the entire splice in No. 12C Scotchcast.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That the 3 step procedure described above be established.

d. Non-Organic Project Support

(1) OBSERVATION: The 40th Signal Battalion (C) is the only heavy communications cable construction unit in Vietnam. Outside plant projects are assigned to the Battalion by the CG 1st Signal Brigade and CO, 160th Signal Group. The completed cable plants support virtually every unit (military and civilian) in Vietnam. Upon receipt of tasking orders the job site is surveyed, men and equipment moved to the site, inspected by the Battalion commander and his staff. As the job progresses there is a continuing need to transport material to the site to prevent work stoppages. The means of transportation (air required) to the various project sites throughout Vietnam is by joint usage of the U-21 aircraft assigned to the 1st Signal Brigade or bookings through the USARV flight section. During the quarter there has been a

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 Apr 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(RL)

marked improvement in the availability of aircraft, however, the need still exists for a dedicated aircraft (U-21) assigned to the 160th Signal Group for common use by the 40th Signal Battalion, The SEA Pictorial Center and COMSEC LOG Agency, all units having activities throughout Vietnam.

(2) RECOMMENDATION: That a U-21 aircraft be assigned under OPCON of the Commanding Officer, 160th Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade.

e. TRAINING: See comments above under "Critical MOS Shortages" and "Splicing Multi-Pair Polyethylene Insulated (PIC) Communication Cable".

f. INTELLIGENCE: NONE

g. LOGISTICS:

Shortage of Construction Equipment

(1) OBSERVATION: The Battalion is required to handle, transport and install heavy multi-pair (PIC) communications cable. Cable reels weigh up to 5000 pounds per reel. The Battalion is short the critically needed items necessary to handle, transport and install heavy cable in a manner that will preclude damage to the cable

(2) EVALUATION: The following equipment shortages, essential to the mission of the Battalion exist:

<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>FSN</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>MILSTRIP DATA</u>
Truck, V-17	2320-498-8377	10	AT8033-9050-5109
Truck, V-18	2320-973-4577	13	AT8033-9057-0074
Truck, V-41	2320-630-6801	12	AT8033-9070-5034
Ditching Machine	3805-633-5794	1	AT8033-9116-0269
Ditching Machine	3805-221-1717	3	AT8033-9116-0269
			AT87HK-9037-0237
			AT87JE-9099-2023
Cleveland Entrencher, J-36	NSN	3	AT8033-9070-5033
Truck, Maint, Polecat	NSN	3	AT8033-8322-5019
Trailer, Cable Hyd,	NSN	3	AT8033-9057-0073
Truck, Wrecker, 5-Ton	2320-055-9258	1	AT87JE-9081-1203
Water Pump 125GPM	4320-542-3347	9	AT8033-9070-5033

The trucks V-17 and V-18 are used by cable and pole line construction teams. They are required primarily to replace existing worn out vehicles. The truck V-41 is a cable splicer's truck. The 40th Signal Battalion

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 Apr 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(RL)

is authorized 30 each and has only 6 each on hand. The Ditching Machines and Cleveland Entrenchers are especially critical as all new outside cable plants must be buried to preclude loss of communications during mortar or rocket attacks. At the present time most entrenching is being done by hand labor. The truck, maintenance, Polecat is a commercial vehicle used to maintain an outside cable plant. Trailers, cable, hydraulic are needed to properly load, transport and reel the very expensive and very heavy PIC cable without damaging the sheath. The Truck, 5-Ton, wrecker, is needed to load and off-load cable reels shipped on flatbeds. The water pumps are required to keep splice-pits and manholes dry during construction and splicing.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That higher headquarters expedite the supply of these critically required equipments.

f. OTHER: NONE

1 Incl
Organizational Structure


GLENN L. PALLONE
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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3-CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375
2-CINC USARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558
1-CG, USASTR-TCOAL-PAC, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, APO 96557
2-CG, 1st Sig Bde, (USASTR-TCOAL), ATTN: SCOPV-OP, APO 96384
8-CO, 160th Sig Gp, APO 96491
10-CO, 40th Sig Bn (C) APO 96491

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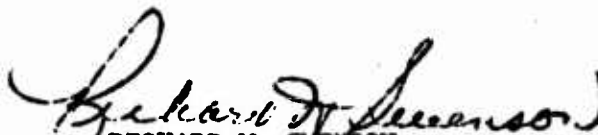
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SCCPV-UG-PT (31 May 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction) for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1).

DA, HQS, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491

2 June 1969

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. Concur in the commander's observations, evaluations, and recommendations especially with regard to paragraph a of Section 2, page 4 where a dire requirement exists for detailed instruction in supply procedures and local supply operations of the 1st Logistical Command.


RICHARD W. SWENSON
Colonel, SigC
Commanding Officer

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development of the Army
(ASCFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310
- 2 - Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SCCPV-OP,
APO 96384

(12)

SCCPV-OP-SD (17 May 69) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96364 16 June 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHCC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed with the following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Paragraph 2a, page 4 and paragraph 2, 1st Ind. Coordination is being effected with Brigade Logistics and 1st Logistical Command to determine in country availability of or capability to provide maximum assistance in the logistical training area to assist in achieving and maintaining supply procedures proficiency. Based on the figures listed below, the critical shortage of MDS 76 series could be alleviated by an internal reassignment within the 160th Signal Group:

<u>160th Sig Gp</u>	<u>76A</u>	<u>76P</u>	<u>76Y</u>
Authorized	19	15	44
Assigned	3	34	53

Continued effort is being made to assure uniform personnel strengths in all the Groups, commensurate with their mission.

b. Paragraph 2b, page 4. Concur in the evaluation and recommendation. Action has already been taken to direct that OPCOM of the units of the 40th Signal Battalion be returned to their parent unit. In the future the 40th Signal Battalion will be assigned construction projects in all of the Corps Area Tactical Zones when the Group concerned cannot undertake the project.

c. Paragraph 2c, page 6.

(1) Concur in steps one and two, but concur in step three only under certain conditions as follows:

(a) May be used when using Scotchcast Splice Kits (89 D Type) for cables one inch or less in diameter.

(b) May be used on larger cables with metal splice cases when:

1 Cable is used as a direct point-to-point tie cable with no probability of need to open splices to install lateral cables.

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SOPV-OP-SD

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

2 Cable is not being pressurized during installation or at some future date.

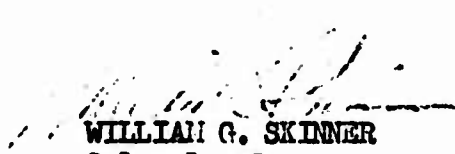
(c) If sealing and installation instruction are carefully adhered to, there is very little likelihood of splice cases leaking. Flash testing will give assurance of air-tight splice closures.

(2) The above method of cable splicing is presently being taught in the cable splicer course at the US Army Training Facility, 1st Signal Brigade; however, due to a critical shortage of material a minimum amount of practical exercise is provided in the training course. In the near future, this headquarters will distribute copies of detailed instructions for installing cast iron cases for direct buried cable.

d. Paragraph 2d, page 6. Nonconcur in the recommendation. Due to the limited U-21 assets in the Brigade it is necessary to retain OPCOM at Brigade. The 160th Group receives a dedicated U-21 every Tuesday for the purpose of hauling essential cargo and can satisfy their requirements the remainder of the time on a mission basis. Retaining OPCOM at Brigade allows the flexibility needed to meet routine requirements plus emergencies throughout the Brigade.

e. Paragraph 2g, page 7. This headquarters is aware of the problem and is coordinating with the 1st Logistical Command and STRATCOM to expedite delivery of the equipment. No additional assistance is required at this time.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


WILLIAM G. SKINNER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

CF:
Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: DCSOPS, SCC-OP3-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Commanding Officer, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491
Commanding Officer, 40th Signal Battalion (Construction), APO 96491

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(14)

AVHGC-DST (17 May 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction) for
Period Ending 30 April 1969

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 29 JUN 1969

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 40th Signal Battalion (Construction) and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. C. ARNTZ
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
40th Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

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(15)
SCCP-OP (17 May 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, PCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command - Pacific,
APO San Francisco 96557 26 AUG 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. The report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is concurred in as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Frank C. Mahin

FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

GPOP-DT (17 May 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 40th Signal Battalion
(Construction) for Period Ending 30 April 1969,
RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 10 SEP 69

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications
Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development,
Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forward-
ing indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



D. A. TUCKER
CPT. AGC
ASST AG

Cy furn:
DA, ACSFOR
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

SCC-PO-CERA (17 May 69) 6th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report HQ, 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
for Period Ending 30 Apr 69, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, US Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort Huachuca,
Arizona 85613 15 OCT 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. This Headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding
indorsements and concurs in the report with the following exceptions:

a. This unit is unique in that it is the only organization of
its type within the Army.

b. For contingency purposes, it is recommended that a similar type
unit be formed either in the active Army structure or within the
active reserves.

2. The existence of only one battalion of this type would seriously
hamper the Army in the accomplishment of its mission during a national
emergency.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Robert A. Mall

ROBERT A. MALL
Captain, AGC
Asst Adj Gen

CF:
CG USASTRATCOM-PAC

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

ORGANIC ASSIGNED UNITS

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)

Company A, 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)

Company B, 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)

Company D, 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)

UNITS ATTACHED FOR RATIONS AND MOTOR MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

1st Signal Center CO.SECLOG

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 160th Signal Group

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